働きマン
HATARAKI MAN
Toujima Tamotsu (40)
Weekly Age Editor
His wife (41) and two girls live in a development in West Tokyo City.
His sole hobby is mountain hiking ... to the point of being unable to walk anymore.
OH! THE FRESHWATER CRABS ARE STILL AROUND.

働王記
HATARAKI OUKI
Man With a Grudge
根に持ちマン
VOL.9
Passing by the grove of larches.
Carefully studying the larches.
The larches are lonesome.
The travel has been solitary.
Kitahara Shiroaki
THIS PLACE ISN'T A FOREST OF LARCHES, YET THAT POEM ALWAYS COMES TO MIND WHEN I COME OUT TO THE MOUNTAINS...
LARCHES CAN BE FOUND IN DROVES EAST OF MT. HAKU IN ISHIKAWA PROVINCE, NORTH OF SHIZUOKA PROVINCE, SOUTH OF ZAOU IN MIYAGI PROVINCE, OR IN NAGANO PROVINCE.
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Hiroko Matsu-kata!!
Why is she here?!
AH!
It's enough just having to see her at work!
Be gone from here!! This place is my sanctuary.

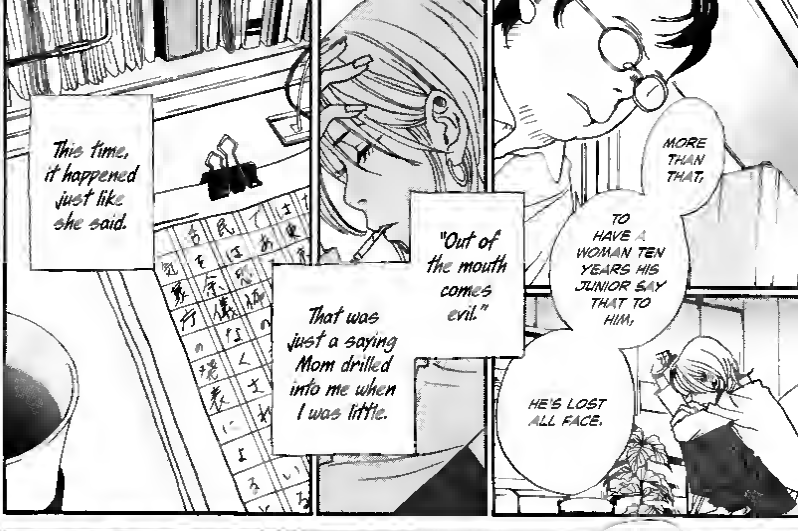
You don't have any etiquette,
just uttering those simple greetings.
The type who only pays attention to superficial niceties.
SHE'LL SEE MY FACE AND RECOGNIZE ME IF I SPEAK NOW!
GOOD MORNING!
GOOD MORNING.
thoughtlessly accusing others of being useless..
GOOD MORNING.
I won't forgive you for that.

M-MR. TOUJIMA?!

IGNORED
WHAT A SURPRISING COINCIDENCE
HI! GOOD MORNING.

For your crimes have been heavy...!
Recognize your guilt!!
...and my anger runs deep.
UH...
Of all people, to run into Mr. Toujima at a place like this...
Is it karma?
It happened two months ago.
I blew up at Mr. Toujima for saying,
"Female reporters get good stories if they sleep with the target."

"You can't blame other people for not being able to do your own job!!"
Then I just blurted out the truth.
Naturally, Mr. Toujima got mad at me. (I'm getting shivers.)
I'm sure that if everyone hadn't restrained him, he'd have pummeled me.
I WAS RUDE AND DISRESPECTFUL TO MR. TOUJIMA, FOR SURE
..BUT HE WAS BEING CRASS AND CYNICAL FIRST, RIGHT?


This time, it happened just like she said.
That was just a saying Mom drilled into me when I was little.
"Out of the mouth comes evil."
HE'S LOST ALL FACE.
TO HAVE A WOMAN TEN YEARS HIS JUNIOR SAY THAT TO HIM,
MORE THAN THAT,

OF ALL THINGS, WHY IS IT BEING MEASURED BY THE TOKYO DOME?!
WHAT IS THIS ABOUT THE TOKYO DOME?
"THE MUDSLIDE DISASTER WAS 30 TOKYO DOMES' WORTH OF FLOWING MUD."

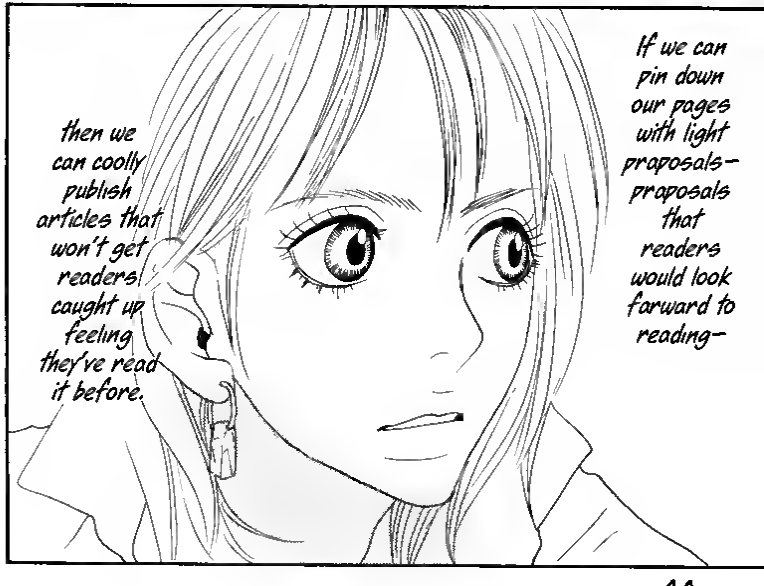
Crap.
SORRY, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO CHECK IT WITH MR. NARITA.
"THE RESIDENTS WHO SURVIVED THE NIGHT OF TERROR MUST NOW CONTINUE ON WITH THEIR LIVES WITH JUST THE SHIRTS ON THEIR BACKS."
CLICHÉ AFTER CLICHÉ
NOT A SINGLE WORD WRITTEN WITH ORIGINALITY.
WHO DID THIS?! WHO IS THE PERSON WHO WROTE SUCH AN EMBARRASSING ARTICLE?!
He was right about the article...
...but I thought that it was just revenge for the earlier incident,
and I couldn't bring myself to accept that.
I'M SORRY! IT WAS ME.

...
AND ABOUT THAT THING YESTERDAY.
YES..
OH THAT'S HOW IT IS.
IT'S NOT PARTICULARLY NECESSARY, BUT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO HAVE A BIT MORE ORIGINALITY.
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT TOUJIMA CAN OR CANNOT DO HIS JOB.
It's true.

Even if what Toujima said was really cruel or if his words got blood rushing to my head,
I didn't have the right to talk that way.
TETRAGNATHA PRAEPONIA
A person became completely beside himself with anger because of the words that leapt out of my mouth.
It's a problem.

That's right...
I'm not particularly...
...demanding of people.
OKAKAMUSUBI AND DASHIMAKI...
AS LONG AS I HAVE THIS, I DON'T REALLY WANT NOR NEED ANYTHING ELSE.
I just want to relax and bask in the natural scenery by myself.
THIS WON'T PASS THE COMMITTEE!
Even if my entire family avoids me in my free time,
I'm not going to complain if they prepare a lunch box like this for me.

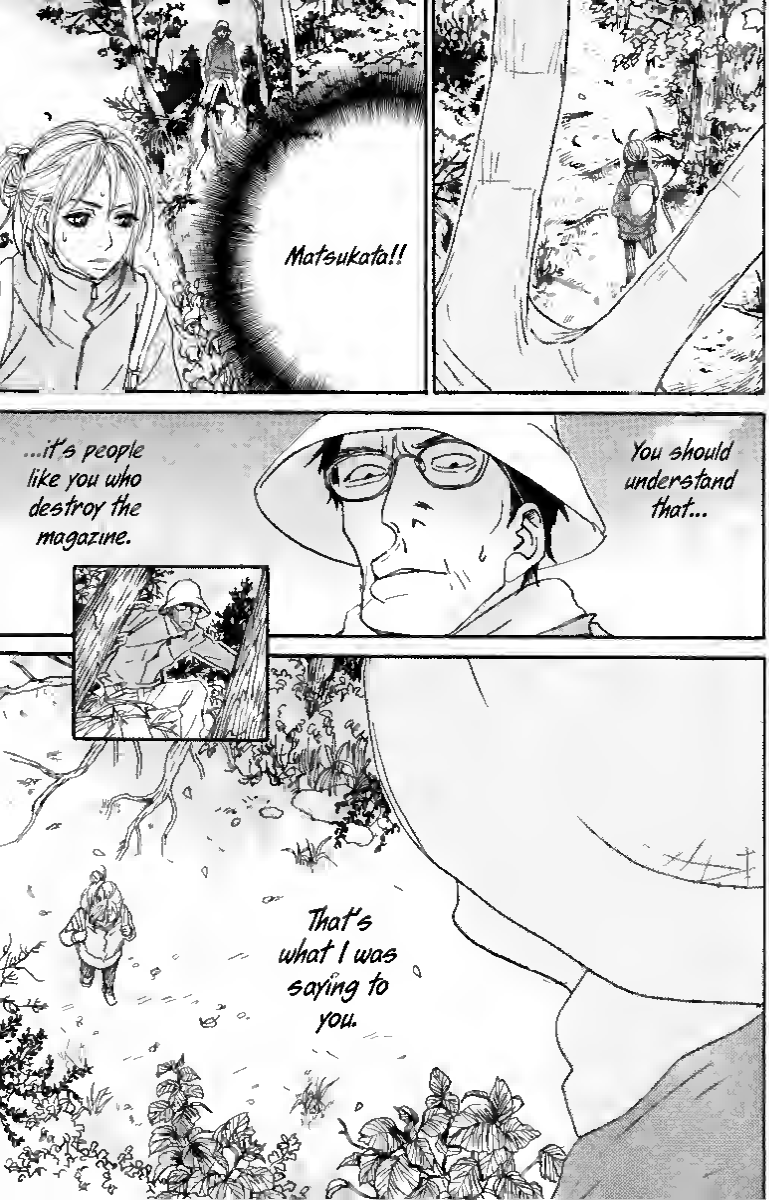
EXPLAIN IT IN WORDS THAT ARE EASIER TO UNDERSTAND.
LIGHTEN IT UP A LITTLE BIT.
THIS IS NO JOKE.
DO YOU TAKE US FOR CELEBRITY GOSSIP FOR THE WORLD ELITE?!
AND IF YOU DELVE INTO THE SUBJECT MATTER TOO MUCH, YOU'LL LOSE YOUR READERS
IT'S TOO HEAVY.


If we can pin down our pages with light proposals— proposals that readers would look forward to reading—
then we can coolly publish articles that won't get readers caught up feeling they've read it before.

Things like that inspire me to do my job properly.

"You can't blame other people for..."
"...not being able to do your own job!!"

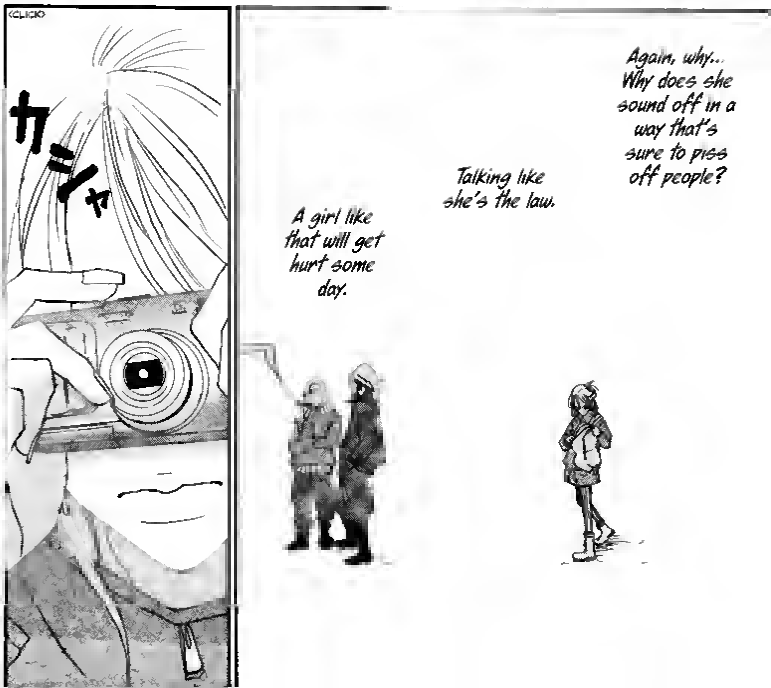
GETTING TOUJIMA INVOLVED WILL BRING A BUNCH OF TROUBLE.
SO THEN, CAN WE GO FORWARD WITH THIS BY OURSELVES?
LIGHTEN UP A LITTLE.
I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO SAY, BUT YOU'RE TOO DEMANDING.
GRR...
...


Matsukata!!
You should understand that...
...it's people like you who destroy the magazine.
That's what I was saying to you.

...fell down from her...
...some rocks...
AH!

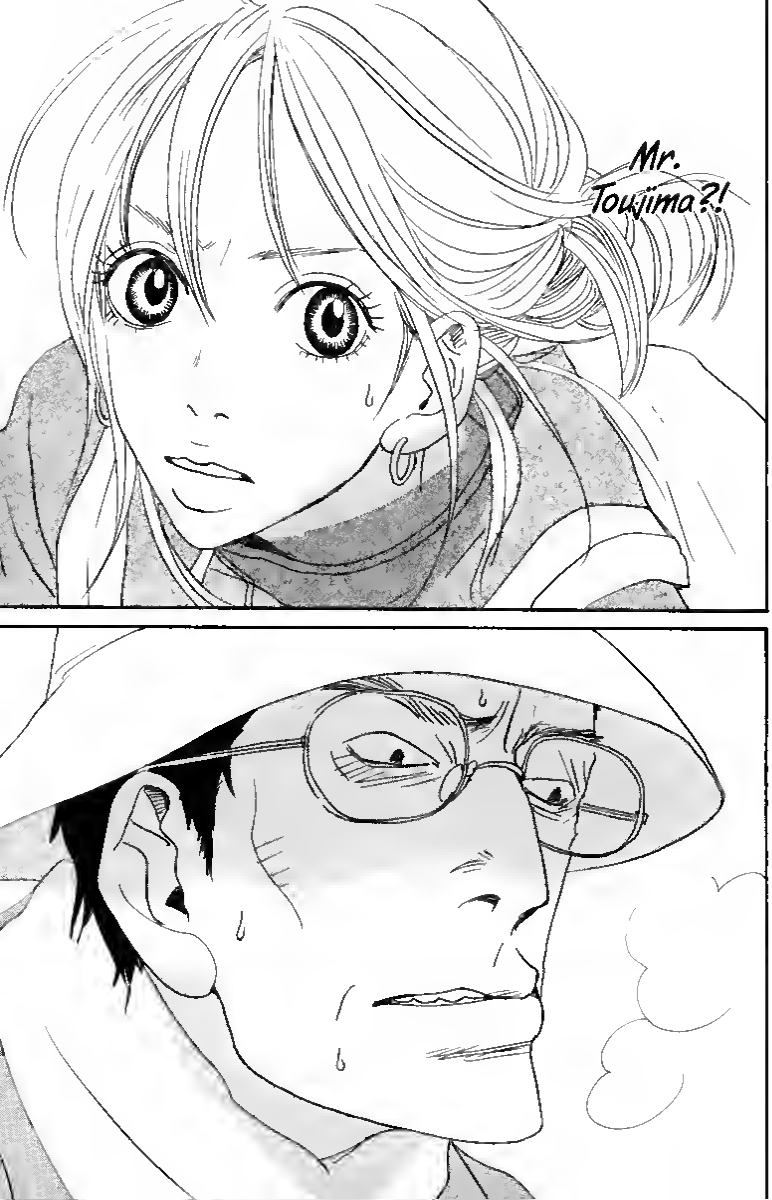
HEY!!
Did she notice me?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

That idiot...
LITTLE LADY.
THIS IS OUTSIDE THE PARK!
...
I'LL REPORT YOU.


(CLICK)
カシャ
Again, why.. Why does she sound off in a way that's sure to piss off people?
Talking like she's the law.
A girl like that will get hurt some day.

HEY..!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
NO, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
YOU DO KNOW THAT ILLEGAL DUMPING OF LARGE WASTE ITEMS IS A CRIME, RIGHT?
SO?

COME HERE!
HEY! THIS WAY!
(THUD)
IT'S ILLEGAL DUMPING!


Mr. Toujima?!

ブロロロ
バンッ
NOW WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I'M RECORDING THEIR LICENSE PLATE NUMBER; THEN I'LL INVESTIGATE AND REPORT THEM.

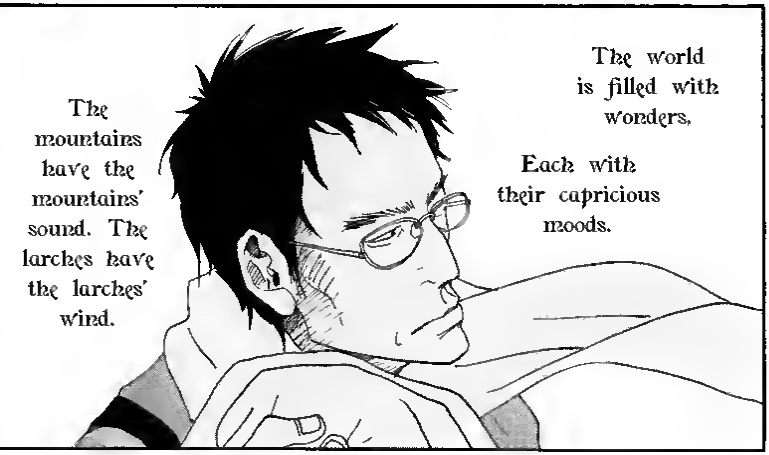
YOU IDIOT!
YOU COULD HAVE GOTTEN KILLED OUT HERE IN THESE MOUNTAINS!

DAMMIT!
I ENDED UP SAVING HER. ME.
...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I AM SORRY
AH
WHEN I'M TIRED OF WORK OR IN A SLUMP, I OFTEN COME HERE
TO THIS SPOT.
THAT'S WHY THOSE PEOPLE MADE ME SO ANGRY.

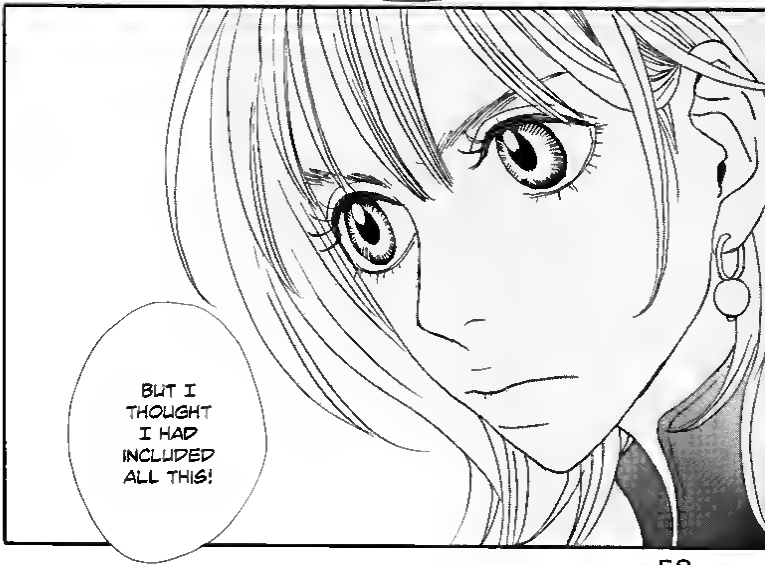
...
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU ARE IN A SLUMP?
HM...
OF COURSE!

Gives pause to mine and thine march,
The road through the grove of larch.

It's a narrow winding trail.
It's a lonely hastening trail.


The world is filled with wonders,
Each with their capricious moods.
The mountains have the mountains' sound. The larches have the larches' wind.

PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THIS
THERE'S DATA SHOWING INDUSTRIAL WASTE DISPOSAL IS DECREASING!
THAT TREND IS RELATED TO THE INCREASE OF DUMPING BY CITIZENS!
ILLEGAL DUMPING...
PLEASE FIRST WRITE UP A PROPOSAL AND GET IT THROUGH THE COMMITTEE BEFORE YOU CONTINUE.


BUT I THOUGHT I HAD INCLUDED ALL THIS!

TOUJIMA IS NEVER CARELESS WITH PROPOSAL APPROVALS.
IT'S NICE TO DO THAT ONCE IN A WHILE.
...BUT HE REALLY GETS ON MY NERVES!

THE SAME THING? WELL, YOU COULD SAY THAT...
IN MY EYES, THESE SECTIONS ARE DIFFERENT, THOUGH.

Tamotsu Toujima (40)
Senior Editor
Content Approval
THINK! WHY ARE THOSE THUGS ILLEGALLY DISPOSING WASTE?
BECAUSE IF THE SYSTEM WERE TO BREAK DOWN, THAT'S HOW IT WOULD HAPPEN!

PEOPLE WHO ARE SUPERFICIAL AND SHALLOW
AND ONLY LOOK AT THE SURFACE OF THINGS. .
...COULD NEVER THINK TO WRITE SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
It was clearly rude of me,
and I have reflected on that,
but grudge-holders sure hold their grudges for a long time!